

WFO:JPS:DC:2005

26 July 1982

Honorable Barry M. Goldwater, Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Barry:

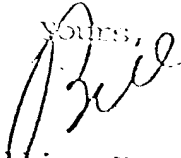
Thank you for your letter of 12 July. I appreciate the thought behind your suggestion that I put all my funds in a blind trust, but I believe we need to consider the precedent that would be set if I were to do this.

If distortions, false assertions and innuendoes were to intimidate me into establishing a blind trust, the same thing could happen to many other people, including Members of the Intelligence Committees, who have similar access to the same information that I have. Some news stories have created the impression that I am the only Cabinet Member who has not set up a blind trust, and that I dumped my oil stocks after some report became available. The facts are quite different:

- Only three Members of the Cabinet have blind trusts.
- Classified reports on oil go to hundreds, sometimes thousands, of individuals in government.
- I established the screening arrangement to protect myself against inadvertent participation in any decision which might significantly affect one of my investments.
- A good many Cabinet, and other, officials have established similar arrangements to protect themselves from inadvertently acting on matters which might affect their investments, their former employers, their former clients, etc.
- Of all the screening arrangements, mine is the most comprehensive and the only one I know that is designed to function on a real-time basis.
- My oil stocks were not "dumped" but were sold over a period of a year by my investment adviser who has full discretion to buy and sell and has done so without any direction from me. He liquidated oil stocks, without any direction from or contact with me, at the same time he disposed of the oil stocks of all his other clients.

Barry, I am enclosing a more detailed letter in the event you believe it is important to have my views circulated to the other Members of the Committee. I agree with the concluding paragraph in your letter that we "can't take it with us." You will agree that, if I were concerned about taking it with me or piling it up, there are other ways I could spend my time to greater effect.

Yours,

  
William J. Casey

Enclosure